

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 01035 062355Z

63

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

AF-06 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 FEA-01 /106 W

----- 044149

P R 062255Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7695

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1035

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: OPENING OF ECLA MEETING IN PORT OF SPAIN

1. WITH THE ATTENDANCE OF SOME 50 NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AND OBSERVER GROUPS, INCLUDING MORE THAN 20 MEMBER DELEGATIONS, THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA) OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPENED TODAY IN PORT OF SPAIN. THE LAST SESSION OF ECLA WAS HELD IN QUITO, ECUADOR IN 1973 AND THIS WAS THE FIRST SUCH MEETING IN AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN COUNTRY.

2. THE SESSION WAS FORMALLY OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, SIR ELLIS CLARKE, WHO WELCOMED THE DELEGATES AND TOLD THEM THAT "IT IS PERHAPS FITTING AND PROPER THAT A NEW VENUE FOR THE SESSION SHOULD BE PROVIDED WHEN A FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER." HE SAID THAT "THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER HAS ALREADY SURVIVED TOO LONG," AND THAT "IT HAS BEEN TRIED, CONVICTED AND SENTENCED AS AN AUDACIOUS IMPOSTER."

3. AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT HOSTED THE LAST ECLA MEETING,

B PEDRO AGUAYO, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT O 01035 062355Z

ECUADOR, WARNED THE DELEGATES AT THE OPENING THAT "POWERFUL COUNTRIES

OVERLOOK THE UNITED NATIONS MANDATE CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES BY DISCRIMINATING AGAINST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." MR. AGUAYO SAID FURTHER THAT "DISCRIMINATION HAS BEEN PRACTICED BECAUSE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, EXERCISING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, HAVE FORMED ORGANIZATIONS OF PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THEIR ECONOMIES AND ACHIEVE STABLE FINANCING."

4. COMMENTING AT THE OPENING ON THE CLOSE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE WORLD ECONOMIES, MR. GABRIEL VAN LAETHEM, UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, REMARKED THAT HE WAS "PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO NOTE THE SPECIAL TREATMENT THAT VENEZUELA IS GIVING SOME OF THE PURCHASERS OF ITS PETROLEUM." "IT IS AFTER ALL ONLY ECONOMIC GOOD SENSE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL CANNOT POSSIBLY BE RESOLVED BY CONTRIBUTING TO A DANGEROUS INCREASE IN THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE PURCHASING COUNTRIES."

5. AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF ECLA. A SPECIAL WELCOME WAS GIVEN TO TWO NEW MEMBERS OF ECLA, GRENADA AND THE BAHAMAS. IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY, PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS AT THE OUTSET STATED THAT IN REVIEWING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, "THE FIRST CRUCIAL PROBLEM WE FACE IS THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION." HE CONTINUED: "LATIN AMERICA DOES NOT NEED TO BE LECTURED ON THE URGENCY AND GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM OF THE TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION." "SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING ABUSES IN THIS FIELD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO LIGHT BY COUNTRIES IN THIS ROOM AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES HAVE BEGUN TO BE APPLIED IN THE FIELD OF IMPORT OVERPRICING... AND IN RESPECT OF FALSE DECLARATION OF PROFITS AND DOUBLE ACCOUNTING OF TRANSNATIONALS." HE BELIEVES THAT "THE TIME APPEARS OPPORTUNE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LATIN AMERICAN CENTER FOR THE SURVEILLANCE OF ALL TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS OPERATING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT O 01035 062355Z

IN THE HEMISPHERE." PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS ALSO REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE THAT "ALL INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE HEMISPHERE BE ADMITTED INTO LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS, REGARDLESS OF BOUNDARY DISPUTES." MULLIGAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO01035
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750159-0316
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750577/aaaacsog.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPENING OF ECLA MEETING IN PORT OF SPAIN
TAGS: EGEN, OCON, TD, ECLA
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006